

WRESTLING FORUM

JUNE 15, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 11

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF BOTH
JON'S CAR AND SEAN'S LUGGAGE

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DID YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DAYS???

Welcome to the very first Wrestling Forum that is a true joint effort. I am joined in Knoxville this issue by New York staff member Sean Grande who arrived June 11th to not only work on this issue, but to finalize plans for the UAWF convention. That is not to say that things went as smoothly as we had planned however...

I had never, until that day, actually known anyone who had their luggage lost on an airline; I do now. Sean, on the other hand, had never been picked up at an airport by someone whose car refused to start; he has now. But all of that is behind us now and it's time once again to go to work on yet another highly entertaining edition of Wrestling Forum.

Speaking of which, we do need to mention that Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month and mailed via first class the following day. Cost per issue is \$1.50 (PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICE) and you may subscribe in any amount up to six months worth.

Included in this issue you will find the "lost" barometer that was missing last time. Jeff Siegel sent the column off in plenty of time, but he sent it from some God-forsaken place in the Atlantic Ocean called Martha's Vineyard. Evidently the post office there didn't toss the bottle hard enough to get it into the main current as it didn't arrive here until June 7. Due to popular demand (and I do mean DEMAND), its inclusion is here for your pleasure. It replaces the Third Fall which normally appears in odd numbered issues. Next issue, the Barometer will return again in its June version and the Third Fall will be back in Issue 13.

Hopefully next time, we will have made some other changes as well. We're trying to purchase a new typewriter (actually, a word processor) that will make the work on this end a lot easier and will also make reading the bulletin a lot easier. If we make the decision to go with the new machine, it's going to take a commitment on my part to continue to improve the quality to the point of attracting new readers. The last two issues have not had the usual "Subscribers" listed on the cover, mainly because I haven't had time. If we go for the new machine, I'm going to have to do all I can to get 300-350 subscribers by the end of the year. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Remember, the more readers we have, the more readers we have contributing news which in the long run benefits everyone.

Sometime in the next couple of issues, we'll start to include Continental news. I've finally found a source for tapes now that they are being carried on the Financial News Network. Things are really hot in that area with the addition of Eddie Gilbert and Paul E.

Well, that about wastes enough space for this issue. Let check in with Sean (who personally typed the next page himself) and the Wrestling Forum tournament...

WRESTLING FORUM 128-MAN ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

ROUND ONE (Part B) RESULTS

Randy Savage (3) put away Hiroshi Hase, 22-6-1
 Jimmy Garvin walloped Mike Miller, 26-3-0
 Lex Lugar detonated the Dynamite Kid, 18-11-0
 Rick Martel (30) shutout Shaun Simpson, 29-0-0
 Eddie Gilbert (19) shutout Denny Brown, 29-0-0
 David Schults slapped Jim Niedhart, 20-7-2
 Brian Pillman booked by Dusty Rhodes, 20-9-0
 Genichiro Tenryu (14) stopped Massa Fuchi, 23-4-2
 Riki Choshu (11) exploded all over T.N.T. 26-3-0
 Manny Fernandez clipped Brutus Beefcake, 24-5-0
 Badnews Brown crushed Hercules Hernandez, 25-4-0
 Road Warrior Hawk clotheslined Shinichi Nakano, 27-2-0
 Brad Armstrong (27) ripped Rip Rogers, 23-5-1
 Jason the Terrible axed Dutch Mantell, 20-8-1
 Antonio Inoki melted Iceman Parsons, 22-6-1
 Tatsumi Fujinami (6) serenaded Gama Singh, 24-3-2
 Jake Roberts slithered by Mando Guerrero, 19-9-1
 Yoshiaki Yatsu suplexed Jeff Jarrett, 18-8-3
 Road Warrior Animal devoured Greg Gagne, 28-1-0
 Bam Bam Bigelow (26) lazered Hector Guerrero, 22-6-1
 Steve Williams (23) chewed out Robert Fuller, 26-3-0
 Keiji Mutoh let Ricky Morton have some R & R, 17-10-2
 Rick Rood kissed of Ronnie Garvin, 15-12-2
 Bobby Eaton (10) gooseled Al Madril, 27-1-1
 Curt Hennig (15) piledrived Koko B. Ware, 28-1-0
 Sting stung Tommy Rogers, 22-6-1
 Keichi Yamadamoonsaulted Tim Horner, 16-10-3
 Terry Gordy (18) dogged Davey Boy Smith, 24-4-1
 Jerry Lawler (31) crowned Jimmy Jack Funk, 28-1-0
 Rick Steiner clubbed Brian Adams, 25-2-2
 Michael Hayes doomed Rip Oliver, 25-4-0
 Ric Flair (2) shutout Steve Simpson, 28-0-1

ROUND TWO MATCH-UPS

Ted DiBiase (1) Vs. Don Muraco
 Dick Murdoch (32) Vs. Al Perez
 Tully Blanchard (17) Vs. Kuniaki Kobayashi
 Massa Saito (16) Vs. Mike Rotunda
 Nobuhiko Takada (9) Vs. Islander Tama
 Arn Anderson (24) Vs. Greg Valentine
 Owen Hart (8) Vs. Nord the Barbarian
 Bruiser Brody (5) Vs. One Man Gang
 Pat Tanaka (28) Vs. Jumbo Tsuruta
 Hulk Hogan (21) Vs. Stan Hansen
 Bret Hart (12) Vs. Chris Adams
 Akira Maeda (13) Vs. Tom Zenk
 Tiger Mask (20) Vs. Shawn Michaels
 Terry Taylor (29) Vs. Jim Duggan
 Barry Windham (4) Vs. Bubba Rogers
 Randy Savage (3) Vs. Jimmy Garvin
 Rick Martel (30) Vs. Lex Lugar
 Eddie Gilbert (19) Vs. David Schults
 Genichiro Tenryu (14) Vs. Brian Pillman
 Riki Choshu (11) Vs. Manny Fernandez
 Road Warrior Hawk (22) Vs. Badnews Brown
 Brad Armstrong (27) Vs. Jason the Terrible
 Tatsumi Fujinami (6) Vs. Antonio Inoki
 Jake Roberts Vs. Yoshiaki Yatsu
 Bam Bam Bigelow (26) Vs. Road Warrior Animal
 Steve Williams (23) Vs. Keiji Mutoh

Bobby Eaton (10) Vs. Rick Rood
 Curt Hennig (15) Vs. Sting
 Terry Gordy (18) Vs. K. Yamada
 J. Lawler (31) Vs. R. Steiner
 Ric Flair (2) Vs. M.Hayes

Notes: For Flair and Martel, their second career shutouts. Eddie Gilbert joins 6 others with one shutout....How 'bout those Simpson's, 0-57-1, way to be.... Mando was a late replacement for the original #17 seed, Rick Steamboat. Hogan and Tama are question marks this time.....For Slick Ric, his 12th career win, for Randy, his 11th. They stand one-two in WFT history.... Blame the nicknames on me (Sean) this time, blame the typos on Jon's typewriter....Deadline for Round 2 is July 9...All votes to:

SEAN GRANDE
 10 Waterside Plz. (26A)
 New York, New York
 10010

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

I guess this first article would qualify as a major story...Verne Gagne, Ken Mantel, Don Owen and Jerry Jarrett will be having their own version of the summit meetings this week in Texas. They will discuss working together over the summer months to combat the bigger promotions. The last time they tried this the only thing they could agree on was that they hated Vince McMahon. I think they all realize that this meeting will have to be more productive in order to accomplish anything. Who knows...maybe they'll decide that they hate Vince AND Crockett this time.

Verne is planning something for a round Labour Day on the lines of a battle of the belts card. It should feature all the world Champions that these groups have between them (which numbers around four counting tag teams). Gee, if you have a championship match for every champion among the four groups, you'd have nine singles matches (providing none of the champions met each other) and five tag team titles. The reasons that something of this magnitude won't work all that well are many. The reason that stands out the most though, is that with that many titles, none of them mean anything to the fans and that gimmick will end up not selling any tickets. Of course, getting promoters to understand that is like trying to reason with the IRS.

This proposed show may be where Curt Hennig regains his AWA title. There has been talk that Lawler would only hold the belt for a short time, just so he could say he had been a world champ. I know Verne's going to want to regain control of the AWA belt so it's only logical.

Don't pay a whole lot of attention to who the AWA says they have coming in. In most cases, not only do they not know who's coming, they don't know who they've got. Best example I can give you is the recent departure of the Rock and Roll Express. I had heard several days in advance of their signing that they were going to try to head back to the NWA. I talked to an AWA person and was told no to worry about Ricky and Robert because the AWA had them booked through September. Two days later, they were popping up on the Miami Mayhem show. In another case, the AWA was very excited about everyone's favorite gum-chewer, Steve Williams, coming in. Steve had been fired by the NWA on one day and rehired the next. In the unemployed period, he called the AWA and agreed to terms with them. Unfortunately, when he was rehired the next day, he forgot he had ever heard of the AWA and didn't call them back. The last I heard, the AWA was still telling anyone who would listen that Doc was headed their way.

Then there's Riki Choshu. For a couple of months they had hyped his arrival. He showed up for exactly one TV taping in Las Vegas and only because he was on his honeymoon there. On last Saturday's show, he was in a tag match with partner Masa Saito and Riki never entered the ring once. I'd be willing to bet he got paid for that, too.

The latest ESPN episode had a pretty decent tag match with Mando and Chavo Guerrero going against Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. Mando still did a great job, but whenever he faced Pat, he kept going into that silly seagull stance that they did in Karate Kid. About drove me nuts! He did do a fantastic leap from the top ropes into a cross body block on Diamond while Diamond was on the arena floor. Nice looking stuff.

TV contacts are continuing to look better around the country as they have added a couple more. They really need a better product along with a better TV site than Las Vegas. Vegas is too glitzy for what they are trying to sell.

Our guest columnist this issue attended the ICW tv tapings (see pages 11-12) with staff member Sean Grande. We will simply call him, Mr. Rio.

MOONDOG SPIKE

In public, he barks and drools, carrying on the traditional Moondog act in the tradition of Rex, King and Spot before him. Backstage, he was the perfect gentleman. When I was introduced to this massive individual, he extended his "paw" and said "How y'all doin'." Willing to talk smart (if not with tremendous interest). Articulate with a charming southern accent, a real teddybear.

VICTOR STEAMBOAT

Very, very similar to his older brother. Quiet, soft spoken and polite. Had no qualms about talking smart when he realized he was in a "Fabe-free zone". Seemingly tired of little kids' questions about his brother. Noted that he was never paid by the Jarretts for his brief stint in Memphis last year. A seemingly class guy.

GEORGE SKOALAND

Pretty much a jerk. Brushed off kids waiting for autographs. A couple of kids asked him politely who he was and he responded; "Joe blow" and walked away without signing. Later in the locker room I joked that his father broke my heart when he threw in Backlund's towel. He said "Yeah, right" and just walked away. His mother was at the show taking pictures of him, hope she used the wide-angle for this guy.

TONY ATLAS

Kind of a split personality. Before the show he was a bit testy, reluctantly signing pictures that were brought to him for kids waiting outside the locker room, keeping several people waiting. Glanced through the Forum but was disappointed when A) he didn't find anything about him and B) didn't find any pictures. After the show, with few people around, he was something less than shy. Posed for pictures, engaged in polite chatter, etc. During the show, when he couldn't find the fork that went with his dinner (linguini with clam sauce), he ate it with his hands.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Because of a power surge in town right before the Miami Mayhem show on June 8, I haven't seen it yet. The power surge screwed up the timer on the VCR, but never fear...we'll have a report before the end of this section as a tape is on the way.

We'll take care of some other stuff first. I guess the most important news is that Ted Turner's people have refused the offer Crockett made to sell the NWA, at least for now. I'm not sure about all of the reasons behind them declining, but I'm sure the price of the promotion weighed against the potential profit did not exactly balance on their scales of good business sense. This had made a lot of the wrestlers here very nervous as they have not received a balloon payment on their contracts (which ran out the end of last month for most of the guys). Many have contacted Titan about jumping, but right now, Vince has not offered any jobs and I doubt if offers any more than one or two if even that many. Crockett therefore, has decided to put everything he's got into the July 10 Pay Per View event from Baltimore in hopes that the payday from it can catch him up on his past due wrestler payments. He's also hoping that the success of the PPV event will further entice Mr. Turner. I've been told that Crockett would be willing to come down in price (and I have no idea what that price is) but if the July 10 thing goes well, he would be in more of a position to ask for the same amount a second time. In fact, that way he'd be better off, because if Turner would have accepted the offer, Crockett would have been out any profit from the PPV and would probably also been responsible for the balloon payments as well.

I wonder if Jim Ross is doing some of the booking nowadays. He's been present now for two angles that were previously used in the mid South area (but then again, so were the teams involved). The latest one had Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers demonstrating a straight jacket hat they had made for Jim Cornette. Cornette had convinced them that he would never be on TBS again and so that was the excuse for Bobby allowing himself to be strapped into the jacket. After Tommy got him buckled in, the Midnight Express hit the area and atomized Fulton. Bobby Eaton literally BENT a steel chair over Fulton's head. I couldn't believe the shot. The whole problem was that they did this thing a few years ago in mid South. And even if they hadn't, the entire skit was as predictable as when they bring cake on to the set. I liked the angle fine, but still...I don't think they had anyone fooled as to what was going to happen.

Somebody in the NWA reads this bulletin I think. On this past Saturday's TBS show, Kevin Sullivan was doing an interview about the triple tower of doom and he made reference to one guy in particular, "the one who chews the gum." Steve Williams is going to be in that match and that was our on-going crude joke of the month from a couple issues ago. I know the reference wasn't made toward us here at Wrestling Forum, but I can't help but think that this has become a running joke in the NWA locker rooms.

On to the recent Clash of Champions on June 8, live on Superstation WTBS. We're going to handle this a little differently as I have the luxury of having Sean right here with me to give his opinion as well as mine. The way we're going to do it is just to let Sean take over and describe the action and then I'll add my two cents worth at the end. Here's Sean....For some reason, they decided to open "Miami Mayhem" with an attempt to show us what kind of big-name celebs show up at NWA shows. Jim Ross, stationed at the dressing room door, is live as former NFL star Lyle Alzado (soon to be star of "Learning the Ropes", a TV series based on wrestling...but more on that later), Francis Crockett and Bruce McCarthur, a NHL bigwig with the Chicago

Blackhawks. Boy, the stars were out in force. The show opened with a US Heavyweight title match (20 minute time limit?) with Barry Windham defending against Brad Armstrong.. Windham pinned him with the claw in 14:08 of a real good (B+) match. There was a fairly long rest period in the middle of the match that included a 2:00 figure-four. Nonetheless, it was a well-done rest spot that led into a tremendous finish. Armstrong hit Barry with a flying bodypress from the top rope and got a 2.9 count. Brad then tried it again only to have Barry end up on top with the claw. During the match, Tony Schiavone went out of the way to point out Barry's new "horsemen" style (stalling, psychology, etc.). Next, an interview with Alzado that included clips of "Learning the Ropes". Alzado plays a school teacher who moonlights as a wrestler. Steve "Trident" Williams is Alzado's wrestling double. Featured in the clip were; Ric Flair, Tully Blanchard, the Road Warriors, Lex Luger and Ron Garvin. No doubt it will be a ratings winner as wrestling always is when taken out of its regular context (remember Teaneck Tanzi).

Following the return of the Rock and Roll Express (interview only), a tape was aired of "the most important signing in the history of the NWA". Lex Luger and Ric Flair signed for their July 10 title match aboard the ship, Blackhawk. All the Horsemen were in attendance. Flair's parting comment to Luger, "You've got to make it to Baltimore", in English class we called that dramatic foreshadowing. The Horsemen's limousine pulled in for a parking lot interview with Jim Ross. After the introductions of the Fantastics and the Shepherders, they cut back to Luger arriving in the Knight Center parking lot. He hadn't stepped six inches out of the car when Horsemen came flying from everywhere. After pounding on Lex for a good 45 seconds, they left him laying on the trunk. Maybe my english teachers knew what they were talking about. Meanwhile, back in the ring, the Fantastics defended the US Tag Team titles against the Sheeps. Bobby Fulton won it for his team with a roll-up. This was another good one (B). The early high spot had several missed moves an was suprisingly sloppy for a Fantastics match. After the slow middle (Sheeps in control, pounding on Tommy Rogers), Tommy made the hot tag and after four excellent minutes including five consecutive double-pn attempts, The Fantastics retained the titles in 17:38.

An interview with Steve Williams, the third in his series of incoherent interviews (look for the video cassette soon), preceeded the tag match between the Garvins and the Varsity Club. Kevin Sullivan was placed in a cage at ringside for this one. The pace of the match was slow, but forgivably slow as a lot of focus was placed on Kevin Sullivan trying to convince Precious to open the cage. Kevin finally got the key and started to choke her. Apparently Patty is into that kind of thing as when Doc (doing color commentary) and Jimmy made the save, she shoved them away and went back to the dressing room. As for the match, they never announced the result so we can only assume some sort of DQ. The match lasted about 14 minutes and I'd grade it about a C-/B-. Next, Tony and Bob Caudle explained the "original" tower of doom. To prove it was original, they pulled out a scetch of it on yellow paper, well, that proved it for me.

After the break, there was a suprisingly good match between Al Perez and Nikita Koloff. Jon's theory as to why this match was so good is that since Perez treated Nikita like a jobber, he dominated the match and didn't allow Nikita to control the tempo. Sounds good to me. As for the result, Perez was DQ'd at 11:50 when Larry Zbyszko hit the ring. They doubled Nikita and left him laying center ring. Maybe this feud won't be as bad as we feared, I gave the bout a B-.

The main event had Tully and Arn defending the NWA Tag Team Titles against Sting and Dusty. The match was stopped at 11:01 when, after both Sting and Dusty hit the ref, Barry Windham did a run-in and opened up Dusty with the claw. Once again there was no official result. The match was mostly Arn and Tully pounding on Sting for five minutes (including a DDT on the concrete) until he could make the hot tag and step aside while Big Dust knocked Tully and Arn

halfway around Miami. Good heat throughout but the place went crazy when Barry hit the ring. Overall, probably not as entertaining as the first Clash but certainly as good as any Saturday Night's Main Event I've ever seen. So, there you have the Clash II, and now I return you to the somewhat capable hands of Jon "It was just a joke, Steve" Gallagher.

Steve "Doctor Dentyne" Williams doing colour commentary?!?! The Rock and Roll Express returning?!?! Jon's theory?!?! (It was Dave's). Who in charge of the NWA anyway?! Let me hit the low points rather quickly...I would have loved to have been in a position to see Tony Shivone's face during the commentary he shared with Doc. Tony was trying to set up the angle between Patty and Kevin and Steve was busy trying to concentrate on the match (Ahh,,that hold's called a front face lock there, Tony). The poor Shepherders...with the Fantastics just coming off of working everynight with the Midnight Express, this match must have seemed to be done in thick molasses. The Sheeps just couldn't keep up with the pace.

I foresee a problem. A very serious problem. The Rock and Roll Express returning with the Fantastics here too. Hmmm. There could be some behind the scenes problems with this one folks. Can the two teams both survive as babyface teams? I think not. Now since Robert Gibson was seen holding up the four horsemen sign during their interview on the Clash and Ricky was being a real obnoxious beanbag again, it looks like they will be the ones to turn heel, right? I doubt it. You have to remember the mentality of the booker we have at work here and realize that his logic defies all other forms of known logic.. I may be making a big thing out of nothing, but something tells me (and don't read anything into this - I have no inside knowledge, just a gut feeling) that we ain't gonna like what eventually happens.

The Triple Tower of Doom match that they hold here on July 10 will be a little different from the one at Texas Stadium and from what I can tell, a little (not much) easier to understand. Two teams will begin the thing in the top cage and then in the tradition of War Games, more members of each team will enter at given intervals. They will work their way down to the bottom (as opposed to up to the top in Texas) where Precious will be waiting with the key. The team that has each of its members escape the cage first will be the winner. It should be interesting to watch at least.

Here we go out on a limb...In the title match between Ric Flair and Lex Luger, I look for Luger to take the title. I once again don't have any inside stuff on this (when I get inside stuff like title changes, I don't usually print it because I know most of you like the surprise element. I do too and that's why when people want to tell me about things like changes, I usually stop them before they get a chance). The reason I think we might see a change is because Ric Flair has held the NWA title on five (officially five...they did one in Australia and New Zealand we're not supposed to know about) and Harley Race still holds the NWA record. Since he was last with the WWF, they want Ric to beat that record which means that Ric is going to have to lose the title (and win it back again) at least another three times in the next few years. But then again, I'm using logic and that's a word that Dusty doesn't even have in his vocabulary.

The NWA Main Event last Sunday had a potentially great match with Bobby Eaton and Tommy Rogers in singles action. It turned out not to be as great as we had anticipated, but still good (about a B - B+ range) and ended with Eaton getting a pinfall with outside help.

PENCIL POINTS

WRESTLING HOTLINE

I'm not sure if you and Dave are aware of a hotline here in the Los Angeles area that takes stuff directly from the Observer and the Forum. I don't know who runs it or if they have permission to use stuff from you guys. But I thought I'd let you know in case you want to plug it or pan it.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Los Angeles, CA-

EDITOR: I know of the hotline you're talking about and only recently have they started using stuff from the Forum. Most of it comes from the Observer and I haven't spoken to Dave about it, so I don't know whether or not whoever runs it has his permission or not. As for myself, I guess I've grown kind of lax in my old age (maybe just more mature) cos the only thing that bothers me is that they didn't get my permission first. I haven't plugged them because I don't know who's responsible and if they are a subscriber or not.

TABLOID TURMOIL

I'm writing because many readers (myself included) are now boycotting the National Enquirer tabloid. Unfortunately, some of us have been affected more than others. I am sending an Enquirer-style quiz to help ease the withdrawal symptoms for those who have gone cold turkey and feel drawn to those seedy newsstands on dark corners for a quick fix....

QUIZ: Would you make a better heel, babyface or a manager?

1. A policeman pulls your car over and accuses you of speeding.
Your response is:

- A) Complain that your child was pulling your hair and your wife was grabbing your tights.
- B) Feel deeply ashamed as you were creating a public menace, pay the fine and offer to do public service messages as well.
- C) Offer to buy tickets to the Policeman's ball.

2. Who would you like to win the next presidential elections?

- A) Morton Downey Jr.
- B) Mister Rogers
- C) Donald Trump

3. When the principal notifies you that your child has been in a fight, you

- A) Ask if he/she won/made use of foreign objects
- B) Arrange to meet with his/her teacher, ground your child
- C) Draw up a contract for a grudge match between the two children to take place the following week in the playground in a steel cage.

4. What section of the grocery store do you usually head for first?

- A) Beer cooler, tabloids, snack section, peroxide.
- B) Milk, Ivory soap, Wonder bread, vitamins
- C) Gourmet

5. Your favorite bumper sticker slogan is;

- A) Is that your face or did your neck throw up?
- B) Wrestling - King of Sports
- C) Beam me up Scotty, there's no intelligent life down here.

Mostly "As" - Heel, Mostly "Bs" - Babyface, Mostly "Cs" - Manager

-NANNETTE JOHNSON-

-Watertown, New York-

COMMENTS ON LAST ISSUE

I gather the Sullivan-Patty angle isn't completely dead. They've been doing this bit at the live cards where Patty is like a zombie, though she comes to ringside with Jimmy. She stands statue still until something in the arena startles her out of her "hypnotic trance" and she trips Sullivan who then does a job. I had this weird feeling of deja vu when I heard this angle and now I remember where I saw this before - it was in GLOW! And even there it was the silliest angle on the show.

What the Dream has done to the Road Warriors should get him jail time. Nuff said.

Best Phantom column I ever read (last issue).

If Calgary folds it will indeed be a great tragedy, but the idea that Owen's coming to Titan is "an injustice to the people of Alberta" is pretty silly. If that's true, then his staying in Calgary would be an injustice to the rest of the world. Very few athletes from small towns spend their entire careers there -- just the guys who are terrified of facing the real world and would rather hide their light under a bushel than risk failure. The rest of us would like to see this guy too, you know!

Why don't the smart folk like Colonel DeBeers, by the way? He's good enough to work Japan, he's got some great moves (face down piledriver that Bass now uses and he was the first American wrestler I saw do an enzuigiri with his opponent holding one of his legs). His destruction of Jimmy Snuka was the most brutal job I've ever seen on TV. He was the last heel, except for Piper, that people genuinely hated - and feared a bit too. I thought he was great and think he'd be a superstar in the WWF.

-BILL KUNKEL-

-Woodhaven, NY-

LOOKIE WHAT WE FOUND

Did it occur to you that the Jake Roberts-Ric Rude thing went over better than they had originally planned? From what I can tell, people are really interested in it and all the while, Titan had just planned on it being a B team feud. This is over much better than Andre-Duggan and it's much more believable. Titan seems to have a problem with reality because very few of their angles deal with it. That is something that is sorely missed.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

FLAIR HAS CLASS

Ric Flair was on a sports call-in show on KMOX. He was not the performer Flair, but the real person and real voice to the amazement of the host. The host mentioned that Flair was the first wrestler to call him "sir". He asked Ric why he was not yelling and screaming like the other wrestlers. Ric responded, "I am an intelligent guy and the best wrestler in the world. Why yell about it; everybody know it." Ric was rather quiet and quite gracious. He mentioned going to church when he had time and ended the interview by saying "God Bless you." After Savage, Hogan and Fred Blasse, the host was taken aback by Flair's calm demeanor.

-HARRY WHITE-

-St. Louis-

11

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING by Sean Grande

For those of you not familiar with ICW, it's a promotion in the family tradition run by the Savoldi's, father Angelo and son Mario in particular. ICW has several TV outlets in Massachusetts and New Jersey as well as many other individual slots in selected northeast cities. They promote live shows up and down the east coast from Maine to Delaware. The biggest news coming out of ICW right now is the acquisition of time slots on both Tempo (effective June, 1988) and the Madison Square Garden Network (effective September, 1988) as well as local TV in parts of Florida. Assisting the Savoldi's as ICW's new booker is the venerable Lord Johnathan Boyd.

Moondog Spike (Bill Smithson) is the current ICW Heavyweight champion and along with his partner Moondog Spot (Larry Latham) and the Dungeon Master comprise ICW's lead heels. All three along with former AWA jobber the Great (Mike) Khalue are under the managerial tutelage of Duke. Duke is out of the Bobby Heenan mold, a top notch manager who not only does a good interview but is skilled in the seemingly lost art of how to work at ringside. Rounding out the heels are the Mad Russian (basically comic relief), Eric Sprazier and a 21-year old with some potential, Chris "The Edge" Evans.

The ICW Tag Team Titles are currently vacant but the incumbent are without a doubt the S & S Express, Joe (Son of Angelo) Savoldi and Victor (Brother of Ricky) Steamboat. Yes, Joe gets a big push from his father but it's more of an Owen Hart push than of Mike Von Erich in terms of its justification. Steamboat has improved tremendously since his debut in Florida last Year. It appears to be a matter of time before Vic is picked up by a major circuit. Which brings us to the Cheetah Kid.

No, not Owen Hart, the original Cheetah Kid (as in the one, folks at Titan, who apparently has the name copyrighted). This guy is simply outstanding and is, without a doubt, the class of the promotion right now. His real name is Ted Petty and the gimmick comes complete with the Cheetah mask, acrobatics, dives over the top rope, et al. With background in both Boxing (Golden Gloves, I believe) and the martial arts. Ted is a natural in the role of the small, acrobatic character that Hisashi Shima gave to Satoru Sayama and made wrestling history over six years ago. Now I don't want to go overboard but looking at the names in this paragraph, that may be a possibility. Simply, Cheetah is a star waiting to happen.

Along with the S & S Express and Cheebah, former WWF Tag Team Champions Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson round out ICW's top babyfaces, at least for the time being. We'll see how long these two wanderers stick around. Young Mike Sundance, the rather rotund George Skoaland and jobbers Tony Stetson and Terry Gunn round out the talent roster.

The latest TV tapings took place on Saturday, June 4 in Butler, New Jersey. After the Cheetah Kid carried the Great Khalue to a good opener, manager Duke interrupted Cheetah's interview to announce to the "world-wide" television audience that Joe Savoldi's ICW Title win last

month over Moondog Spike (Duke's man) had been overturned due to "bias by the referee". Spike remains the ICW Heavyweight champion and this prolongs the feud between the two into the summer.

Continuing in the first hour, Spike did a run-in to save the Dungeon Master in his match with Rocky Johnson. They double-teamed Johnson until Tony Atlas could make the save, re-uniting their championship tag team after four years. On the proceeding interview, the two (Atlas and Johnson) mentioned them being the first black WWF tag team champs and that they were back together to rid ICW of Duke's stable. Rounding out the first hour was a good tag team match that saw the S & S down Mike Khalue and Eric Sprazier.

The second hour opened with a mixed tag team match as the Cheetah Kid teamed with Black Lady Venus (Jean Kirkland) to down the Mad Russian and the 21-year old Babyface Kid (Jennifer Dracht). Then the grudge tag team match from "last week" saw Moondog Spike and the Dungeon Master go to a double-disqualification with Atlas and Johnson in a wild brawl that spilled outside the ring (there were no barriers separating the fans from the ring, only about five feet of empty space). Apparently the four went overboard as Angelo Savoldi came flying out of the dressing room to break it up. He could be overheard saying "Don't you guys know this is New Jersey." It should be explained that (like certain parts of Pennsylvania) New Jersey is a particularly tight state when it comes to the State Athletic Commission. Most of the brawl took place within a foot of the ringside table.

The ICW Champion Moondog Spike then pummeled Mike Sundance in a squash. Spike's finisher is something like the hold the WWF Hangman used (circa 1980), stretching an opponent's neck over his shoulder for a submission. Rounding out the second hour were squashes featuring the Dungeon Master and then the S & S Express.

The third hour began with a "scientific" match between the Cheetah Kid and former WWF jobber Terry Gunn. Cheetah made this potentially boring match an entertaining one. Rocky Johnson then edged "The Edge" Chris Evans in a squash, Rocky is on a one meal-a-day diet in an effort to cure his case of TB, (Twin Bellies). (Blame John Panbozzi for that joke...Tony Atlas laughed at it, though). Tony Atlas and George Skoaland rounded out the third hour with squashes, thus endeth the tapings.

All things considered, an independent show, small building, many squashes, etc. the Savoldis put on a real quality show. ICW is a top-notch independent promotion that deserves the visibility it has now attained. With that in mind, we would like to cover ICW regularly in the Forum. Anyone that can watch/tape the ICW show and is interested in either supplying the tapes or the report itself, let's make a deal. Contact Jon for details.

Welcome to the May edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", the monthly census of what's hot and what's not in professional wrestling found exclusively in Wrestling Forum!

As usual, we begin with a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying Barometer results: 5 points are awarded for a first place vote, 3 points are awarded for a second place vote, 1 point for a third place vote and 1/2 point for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Then, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in this column. The minimum point total allows us to concentrate on the months major trends.

Now, on to the long-awaited May results:

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 20 POINTS)

1. Barry Windham's turn (58 Points)
2. "The Triple Tower of Doom" (29 Points)
3. Billy Jack-Haynes-Don Owen War (27.5 Points)
4. Michael Hayes stealing Dusty's "Tower of Doom" (22 Points)
5. Midnight Express-Fantastics feud (20.5 Points)
6. "Rude Awakening" concept/Skit w. Jake's wife (20 Points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 20 POINTS)

1. The Midnight Rider angle. (38.5 points)
2. Four Horsemen vitamins (31 Points)
3. Duggan-Andre feud (25 Points)
4. Rougeau Brother's turn (22.5 Points)

Notes: Lots of interesting things going on this month. For starters, Barry Windham's turn scored one of the biggest victories on the "hot" side in quite some time (both for total points and margin of victory). Interestingly enough, the last big turn to win the top spot was Randy Savage's when the "Macho Man" took the number one position in the October, 1987 "Barometer" with a total of 47.5 Points....If I were Dusty Rhodes (I know, I know, I should thank God I'm not), I'd have to have a complex by now. Then again, when you've got an ego the size of Big Dust's, I guess such a thing isn't possible. Anyway, Dusty set some more Barometer records this go-around. First, he captured the top spot on the "Not" side for the 2nd time in the past three months (last month, he was number two with the Rider angle). If that's not enough, this month he becomes the first person to ever "put someone over" onto the "Hot" list. In other words, Michael Hayes pulled in the number four spot on the up side of the ledger because he stole the "Triple Tower of Doom" concept from Virgil. What can Dusty do next?....Looks like those ludicrous Horsemen vitamins are getting a little more bad press after last month's "disappointing" fourth-place finish on the dark side.... The Rougeau turn probably made the list because most folks are confused and disinterested....Vote total for the "Rude awakening" skit is a combined total. A good showing for a second-rate Titan angle, nevertheless... Andre's got a "Not" string second only to you-know-who.

Next month, you can vote for your top ten wrestlers and tag teams and include that ballot with your Barometer entry. As long as there seems to be a demand for a top ten feature like this, we hope to be able to get those readers to participate in the Barometer as well.

The deadline for those June barometer ballots is June 24. As always, entries and comments should be sent to:

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APPLICANTS FOR THE JOB...

Speculation has run wild over the past few weeks over the personnel changes that may or may not occur IF Ted Turner purchases the NWA from Jim Crockett Promotions. We for a long time have called for the replacement of Dusty Rhodes as the head booker of the NWA as his angles have become stale, always making himself the center of the promotion. I thought (along with reader Dore DeQuattro...this makes the second feature in a row that he's responsible for) it would be fun to step into Ted Turner's shoes and fire Dusty...and then choose his replacement. This then, is a look at some of his choices that he would have.

talk to Eddie Sharkey, and he'll tell you that the person with the most business sense employed by the Crockett family is his former trainee, Road Warrior Animal. Eddie insists that Animal has a lot of good idea that rarely center around himself, although I doubt that we'd ever see the Warriors doing even two counts let alone anything closely resembling a job. Animal might make a good booker, but his ideas at this point are unproven. If Turner wants to make a go of the NWA, he can't afford to put someone in charge that may or may not be able to handle the job. Animal would have to prove himself in the role of assistant booker at first, before he would be considered for the job.

Ric Flair is another name that readily comes to mind when talking about the booker's job. Again, he has no experience. Flair may be one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, yet that in itself does not qualify him to step into the role of weaving the characters into a feasible plot each week. Again though, Flair has no experience in this type of role and could fail miserably.

One name that also comes to mind that has no experience in the booker's role would be Jim Cornette. We've all been witness to his tremendous interviews, most of which are he results of plenty of thought and testing. His spontaneity is obvious whenever he appears on live radio and is able to ad lib through most any situation. These are definitely qualities that one must look for in a booker, yet most angles are not spontaneous and therefore, that quality is not a prerequisite. Creativity, however, is not only required, but the booker is regularly tested to make sure he has retained a certain degree of it. Of those that we have looked at thusfar, Cornette might be the most logical choice.

But, if we're looking for candidates for he job that have experience, here are a few others around with that qualification who have been successful in the past in the role of booker.

The most obvious is Kevin Sullivan. He handled the book in Florida before the Crockett buyout there. He showed the ability to coherently **create** angles with a small cast of characters. Whether or not he could do so with a cast as large as the Crockett stable would remain to be seen. Another problem with his booking of non-family-oriented skits. The devil worship thing is a prime example and one that may haunt him for the rest of his career. He has also had a tendency to revolve the angles in the promotions around himself, something that is the whole idea behind replacing the present booker. So while Sullivan has the experience, his past track record (if I were the one hiring for the job) would knock him out of the running.

One of the things that I would have to do at this point would be to sit down and look at what has made other promotions successful. I would look at Titan and see how their head booker (Vince) completely absolves himself from angles other than announcing them. This keeps his ego out of the way of what is best for the promotion. In fact, Vince has kept the prime objective of his goals clearly in focus: Make as much money as possible. This allows him to sit back and evaluate each angle from a business standpoint rather than one that does nothing but feed a giant ego. Even with Hulk Hogan on his staff, the WWF has proved (at least for short periods of time) that they can get by without

him. Because of that, I think that I would narrow my choices down to a few who are either retired, semi-retired or never were involved in active wrestling in the first place.

Dory Funk Jr. comes to mind with these qualifications. He has for the most part retired, working Puerto Rico and Japan a few times per year. He was responsible for the Starrcade, so his ideas have been well received by the general public. There may, however, be some hard feelings between him and the Crockett organization, ones that might undermine his creativity. If Turner would purchase the NWA, he would still listen to the Crocketts for advice on occasion, and the first time an angle didn't go over, the Crockett people, no doubt, would be he first in line to voice their concerns and complaints. Funk might be the best for the job of anyone we've spoken of so far, but his road to the top would be scattered with all sorts of bobbytraps along the way. Still, Funk remains our third choice.

Second choice is Ole Anderson. Ole handled the book for the old Georgia promotion and in my opinion, did alright with what he had to work with. He practically destroyed the promotion single handedly, using his sense of business (which there at times seemed to be very little of), but we have to remember that that was at the time that Vince McMahon was making all his talent raids to build the WWF. Contracts at the time were not worth the paper they were written on so Ole really had no idea from one week to the next who he would have to do angles and skits with. The job he did as booker was admirable; the job he did running Georgia Championship Wrestling stunk. All Turner would have to do would be to let him run his angles and keep him away from the accounts receivable. We have to remember also. Anderson was responsible for firing the first shot in the expansion wars prior to 1984 so this could work to his advantage as well.

But the name topping our list would have to be the old cowboy, Bill Watts. Watts at one time had a working relationship with Turner from the 13 week run of Mid South shows back in 1984. Watts has the experience of not only being a booker, but seeing the result of the angles from a revenue standpoint. He has the experience needed and he also has the uncanny ability to make his wrestlers perform at 110% of their capabilities. Most importantly, Watts knows the business inside out and could be very valuable in many aspects other than handling the book. He's not shy about expressing his opinion, one thing that that might help turn things around (can you imagine the Cowboy coming on the air after learning that Titan was going to counter Starrcade last year with the Survivor Series? It would have been a classic!). Whether Watts could be lured out of retirement or not remains to be seen, but if Turner wants to make a success of the promotion, the role of booker cannot be overlooked and therefore, money should be of little object.

Speculation is always fun to do. As of this writing, the point is moot as Turner's people have rejected the Crockett offer. However there may be hope for the deal to go through even after the Great American Bash. Or if he likes, Jim Crockett can use the above mentioned ideas for replacing the booker on his own. What ever the case, Dusty has been on a roller coaster with the effectiveness of his angles for the last year or so and most of the time, the ride's been downhill.

If Crockett is dead set on keeping Dusty, then perhaps Jim should arrange a six month cruise for the Dream, replacing him only temporarily... just until interest can be re-established. In any case, the ball is now in Jim Crockett's hands. The fate of the NWA may well rest upon whatever decision he makes.

MEMPHIS

Lots of stuff going on here including new talent, some departures, title changes and more so let's not waste any more time...

Brickhouse Brown is the new CWA champion having won the title via forfeit. Max Paine had the title and Brickhouse wanted him to give the title to Curt Hennig so Hennig could get a rematch with Lawler for the AWA crown. Paine refused and he was double teamed by Brown and Gary Young. He couldn't defend the title then against Brown and so it was ordered that he give it up via forfeit.

Lots of new faces this time around including Downtown Bruno who is back, not as a manager, but as a "Stable-izer." More on that in a minute. When he came out the first week on TV he got a great reception by the studio audience despite him being a heel. When he said his catch phrase ("Mama says it beez that way sometimes") the crowd popped. He's not dressing like a street urchin anymore; he's gotten classy with some custom made jumpsuits. Can you imagine...Downtown Bruno a fashion plate?!? Anyway, he's with another newcomer, Robert Fuller, who runs Stud's Stable. He's officially their manager (Bruno is, that is) and so he's called the stable-izer. Get it? I hope not too often.

Also in the stable is Silvia, Fuller's valet, Jimmy Golden, his frequent tag partner from Continental, Don Bass, and Gary Young. The big angle that they've done with the group so far was to get another newcomer over as a bayface.

Tojo Yamamoto has returned with a protege called Senshe, a Japanese wrestler under a mask (Akio Soto, I'm told). After Senshe debuted, Robert Fuller came out and told Tojo that the kid might be Stud material but Tojo definitely was not. Silvia made some insulting remarks to Tojo and knocked his hat off. Jeff Jarrett came out and Silvia then started in on him as well. She ended up slapping him in the face and Fuller said "Are you gonna let a woman slap you around?" to which Jeff replied "I won't hit a woman, but I will hit you!" He did and a brawl ensued with Jimmy Golden coming out to double up on Jeff and then Tojo and Senshe helping to break things up. If my Memphis history is correct, I believe it was Tojo who trained Jeff.

Billy Travis and Scott Steiner are the new tag champs having defeated the Cuban Choir Boys. They are defending their newly acquired straps against Tommy and Doug Gilbert in most places. Tommy and Doug are still mentioned but nothing is ever said anymore about Missy or Eddie.

Shawn Baxter is a newcomer as well, making his initial appearance anywhere. He isn't very good, but since he looks like rock star Rod Stewart, the girls like him. He was offered a position in Studd's stable but he turned it down and got beat up for his effort.

Lawler and Hennig continue to feud and they did a fantastic angle a week or so back. Hennig beat up a local car dealer, destroyed most of the TV furniture and then finally grabbed Lance Russell by the neck in an attempt to make Lawler come out and face him. Grabbing Lance worked but Lawler was intercepted on his way to the ring by the Stable and they all destroyed Lawler. The car dealer then came out and said that for the rematch the next Monday night in Memphis he would refund all ticket prices if Lawler lost. I don't have the results of that night's card, but rest assured that no tickets were refunded.

The renegade Rampage came down to a tournament with six finalists including Tommy Rich, Max Paine, Bill Dundee, Jeff Jarrett, Gary Young, and Scott Steiner. We'll have the winner of that next time as the tournament was held just this last week and we haven't seen the tape yet.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
by Jeff Bowdren

GWA TV TAPINGS - PART TWO

Among the other stuff happening at the GWA tapings, it seemed to be the RedRobers show. During the first or second hour of the tapings, Roberts had a match with "Soulman" Alex G. During the match, Lord Henry Norman (AKA Black Magic) distracts the ref while Reverend James Johnson hands Red a foreign object. Red gets the win and advances to the finals of the TV Title tourney against, you guessed it, Lord Henry Norman. Red comes out for the championship match wearing a knee brace, he forfeits the match and the title to Norman. Norman then does an interview announcing his new allegiance with Roberts, Johnson and Death Row. Soul Patrol member Johnny Evans comes out and challenges one of Death Row to a singles match. Naturally, we end up with a two-on-one and Evans gets killed by the boys from Row.

The next hour, it was announced that the reason Evans' partner T.J. Jackson wasn't around during the match was that he recieved a "phone call" saying that his mother was seriously ill. Jackson then came out and challenged Row to a singles match. One of the heels then hit the ring as Alex G. slapped Red Roberts. Roberts, Johnson and the other Row chased Alex out of the building. Meanwhile, back in the ring, Johnny Evans, taped ribs and all, hit the ring with a chair. He and T.J. then destroyed the other Row until Alex joined them for a three-on-one. By the time the heels got back, The Soul Patrol had fled from the ring with Jackson landing on the ringside table and injuring his leg legit. At that point, the two members of Death Row got into an altercation and had to be pulled apart by Rev. Johnson.

Roberts then did an interview claiming that he had been tricked by Soul Patrol. Announcer Bob Roop reminded Red that he had "called the Soul Patrol 'retarded'". What does that make you, Red?" Roberts then claimed that a study had been done some 20 years ago proving that certain genetic species are inferior to others. This set up the 4th-hour angle in which Rev. Johnson, Death Row and Lord Henry Norman form their own group. Roberts is now managing y.C. Nim and the sardonista. (Riki Fronton)

The other thing that happened was a battle royale between the students of the GWA Wrestling school (supposedly rookies). The three finalists were Tom Nash, Gaborrman and some jobber. Nash got there by giving everyone crotch shots and throwing them out. Anyway, Gatorman (Mark Benedict) won, which is kind of funny since he's a ten-year veteran of the ring.

That covers the Global Wrestling Alliance for the next few weeks. More from Jeff next issue. The moral of this issue's report. If you have to attend to your sick mother, make sure your partner stays in the dressing room.

CALGARY STAMPEDE

by Trent Walters

Lots of news coming out of here. Most of it outside the ring. Keith Hart has replaced brother Bruce as booker. This is as a result of some "happenings" that I can't go into. Two major rumors have surfaced. Stu Hart is going to close down the promotion and that someone in the United States is going to buy it.

Brian Pillman has a torn tricept that will keep him out of action for 8-12 weeks. Pillman and Bruce Hart, the Tag Team Champions, will probably lose their titles in the office.

Jon Holliday's legit suspension in Edmonton (for striking a fan) ended on May 21.

Gary Albright, who is billed as Makhan Singh's half-brother, is using his real name, not Volcan Singh. He shows some promise but is as green as can be expected.

Kerry Brown turned babyface on May 20. The heels (Kerry, John Smith and Gama and Makhan Singh) were all in the ring doing an interview. All had turbans except Kerry. Kerry interrupts Gama who tells Kerry to shut up, and asks him where his turban is. Kerry says that he can't (wear a turban) because of his religion. Later in the card, Kerry interferes in the Singh's match with Bad Company (Hart & Pillman) and costs the Singh's the match.

The Twin Towers (two David Schults Trainees) and the Terminators are mentioned to be coming in.

Owen Hart and Jason the Terrible are scheduled to return from New-Japan on June 26. Both are expected to return to Stampede. In Hart's case, he will return to Stampede for only a few weeks before heading to the WWF.

Johnny Smith and Chris Benoit continue to feud over the Commonwealth Mid-Heavyweight title. Smith pinned Benoit to apparently win the title on May 27 in Calgary but (like Steve Casey in the WCWA) the challenger Smith failed to make the weight. Remember in the old days it used to be the champion (Steve Regal) who never made the weight.

There's lots of interesting stuff coming out of Titan these days with he most of it being rumors and the like. Before confusing the issues with those rumors though, lets take a look at the latest set of TV tapes done this past week in Oakland CA.

I guess the big news, or at least, the most unexpected news, is that the Midnight Rockers, Sean Michaels and Marty Jannetty, showed up and managed to hold their new jobs for longer than one day. The team is being called just "the Rockers" as Verne evidently holds the federal trademark on the Midnight Rockers moniker. They appeared and were well received by a few fans at ringside who knew who they were in the first hour of the tapes. They had another squash match later in the tapings as well. They will be working opposite the Conquistadors in the next month or so until they can be worked into an angle.

The other debut was by that of Big Boss Man who we had all come to know and love as Big Bubba rogers. I haven't decided what we're going to call him yet here in these pages so just bear with us, okay? Anyway, his whole gimmick revolves around him being a former prison guard in Cobb County and he carries a night stick into the ring with him. After total annihilating his opponet (Bubba doesn't sell a thing during his matches) he handcuffs the poor guy o the ropes and then begins beating him up with the nightstick. Something tells me that a certain balding former champion is going to eventually get handcuffed to the ropes and beaten with a nightstick.

The Oakland show was filled with angles. The first angle of the night that was shot resulted in Jim Neidhart turning babyface and being reunited with Bret Hart. Bret was wrestling a squash against Jerry Allen and he was continuing his heel-type style. Jimmy Hart came to ringside once again to manage him, but Bret sent him back. Hart woldn't leave and Jim Neidhart came to ringside and made Jimmy return to the dressing room, thus reuniting him and bret. The only real problem was that Bret's heel style confused the fans somewhat. They want to cheer for him for firing Hart, but they don't know whether they're supposed to or not. The result is for the most part, silence.

The next angle shot is for the demise of Billy Graham. Greg Valentine (complete with shin splint for a more effective figure four - more on this later) had just destroyed jobber Riki Ataki with the figure four. Don Muraco came in to make the save when greg woldn't release the hold. Jimmy Hart then spit in Muraco's face and Don chased him back to the dressing room while Superstar stuck around to help Ataki. Greg then attacked Graham and put him in the figure four until Muraco came out again to make his second save of the night. Graham ended up being stretchered out and with this ends his illustrious career as either a wrestler or manager. He will concentrate now on the broadcast booth and we'll no doubt be seeing a Muraco-Valentine feud over the summer.

One of the Craig DeGeorge interview spots featured Bobby Heenan and his entire family sans Harley Race. Heenan told the assembled that Hogan (who got heavy cheers) had injured Harley and basically that had ended his career. Get this...they then had a moment of silence (well, the family was silent, the crowd was into booing) and the timekeeper rang the bell ten times. I bet this will make Harley feel much better as he recuperates; this is the traditional way of announcing a wrestler's death! Anyway, bobby said that they would be conducting a search for a new king over the next few months.

The twenty first match of the evening (which should work out to being in the third hour I would guess...either that or the very end of the second) set up some more stuff between Strike Force and Demolition. After a pretty good match, they did the elbow-from-the-top-rope move while Rick Martel while he was spread over Axe knee outside he ring on the arena floor. Martel ended up doing a stretcher job so evidently

Rick is either taking some time off (I hear his wife is ill) or they intend to run this feud around the country some more.

Sean brought out a tape from the last Madison Square Garden show and so I got to see the Savage-DiBiase bout first hand. I put the match in the B+ to A- range as it was one of those matches where even the slow spots were well done. DiBiase took a helacious bump, doing a backflip off a clothesline over the top rope and when he came down his face hit flush on the ring apron. He had to have broken his nose in the fall and there was blood all over the place. The match ended in a DQ when Virgil interfered and although Virgil has yet to learn how to wrestle, this man can take a tremendous bump. He just has absolutely no clue in ring technology.

I noticed on the last set of TV tapings an inside joke and I wonder how many others caught it as well. It was from the set done in Minnesota and featured a jobber who was shaven bald, wore a bright red ring jackets and was named Larry Simpson. Nikita Koloff's real name of course is Scot Simpson and is from the same area. I don't think it was meant to be anything on the scale of Ted's bodyguard being named Virgil, but it was one of those subtle things that I kind of enjoy.

Here's a funny story from the locker rooms. It seems that someone who worked in an arena recently visited by Titan found evidence that steroids had been in use (needles, mainly). Vince was then forced (for publicity reasons) to address the troops on the evils of steroid use. The guy who I talked to about it couldn't remember a thing Vince said because he was busy thinking of very somber thoughts in order to keep from laughing.

Terry Taylor is definitely coming in, but not quite in the role we thought. He's scheduled against Mike Sharpe in bouts across the country until he gets a push on the syndicated show so I think we can assume a babyface role for him. How long it will last is anybody's guess as he appeared to be having more fun than any time before workign as a heel.

Titan returns to the Quad Cities on July 12 in a show I'd love to see, but due to second shift work, I can't. DiBiase and Savage will headline with basically the A team filling out the card. It should ne~~th~~em a sell out there.

Things heating up with the Jake Roberts-Ric Rude feud and Jake's wife Cheyrl is getting more involved. A recent interview segment with Craig DeGeorge had him bringing her up on stage while he pulled the snake out and draped it around himself and her. Reports from around the counry say that these two are really working their collective butts off at arena shows really making up for the sub par performance they put in at Wrestlemania.

Sean explained something to me about Greg Valentine's figure four leg lock that I hadn't even thought of. So here's Sean to explain it to you:

Thanks, Jon. My theory concerns why they felt they had to work an angle around Greg's shinguard. Years ago, the figure-four inspired fear in the hearts of marks. Not only was the recipient (usually the babyface) in danger of submitting and losing the match (a particularly tense moment in title matches), he was also in danger of suffering severe leg damage. Lately, the figure-four has become something of an rest hold. Hardly anyone ever submits to it anymore nor do they sell a serious leg injury after somehow making it to the ropes. Now, with the addition of the shinguard, it makes Greg's figure-four a viable submission hold, not to mention instilling fear into the hearts of marks everywhere when Greg slaps it on their favorite babyface. This has been a Wrestling Forum special report.

Got my first look at Sean Rooney, the new WWF announcer (this is

Jon again) and sorry to say, I'm not all that impressed. If they wanted another Craig DeGoerge, they should have just kept the one that they had (they did keep him but cut his role).

Souvenir sales are up a bunch at the live shows thanks to a brilliant promotional tactic. At every show Savage appears at, they make an announcement that he has signed a few random programs and that anyone who has a program that is autographed by Savage gets some kind of a prize (it's 1:30 am and for the life of me I can't think what the prize is - forgive me). As soon as they make the announcement, the programs disappear at three bucks a pop. I have not heard of anyone actually winning anything but I'm sure that Savage really does sign some.

The latest version of Wrestling Challenge had an interesting tag line on it. Bobby Heenan is telling us that he has a new guy coming in named Brother Love. It's not Brother Ernest, but evidently a carbon copy of him. Okay. Now I'm ticked. Not only are they taking shots at religion (which really doesn't bother me, just if they get blasphemous) but they're taking a shot at Neil Diamond (for those of you too young, he was a rock star who had a hit in about 1969 called Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show...check with your local oldies radio station).

Attention AWA personnel...Titan is officially ignoring your federal trademarked name of the Midnight Rockers. I've heard them announced for several upcoming cards now and it's never the Rockers...always the Midnight Rockers. Get hold of my lawyers (Dewey, Cheatham, & Howe) and they'll take care of the lawsuit.

More locally. I'm told the reason for coming into Davenport (Quad Cities) with the "A" team was to counteract anything that Crockett could do further. Crockett had an advance of about 200 for his show here that they cancelled and Titan just wanted to prove they could sell the place out again. If things go according to the standard operating procedure, Titan should now go back to the arena after their sell out (or near sell out) and convince them that they need no one else but Titan. If the arena doesn't agree, then they say that the arena can't have Titan at all (Play my game or I'll take my ball and go home).

I'm also being told that on 7/14 they will do TV tapings from Cedar Rapids Iowa. Local newspapers are touting the card as a TV taping, something they usually never mention. Don't have a clue as to what they would tape that night as they usually tape on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The next set of Superstar and Challenge tapes will take place in up state New York.

There will be yet another change in the TV show. It will feature something like the old WWF show tried to do with a control centre with matches interspersed. It's the same format they use on the NFL pre-game shows.

Looks like Vince is just going to set back this time and let Crockett have a free shot at the PPV market. His last foray into keeping them off created a lot of new enemies in the Cable TV industry. You can be assured he'll be watching. But the whole reason they did a counter to Starrcade was to keep Crockett from gaining a foothold in the market. It worked for a while, but as WMIV flopped and Vince's strongarm tactics worked against him, all the money he spent turned out to be only temporary. We'll see if he's done playing silly games now or not.

The Oregon Wrestling Federation has dates booked all over the state, including towns Owen Promotions has either never been in, or has been away from for years. On May 22 in Oregon City, Rip Oliver and Hercules Haggerty met in a heel Vs. Heel match in the OWF Title tournament. Both men were disqualified for using Haggerty's chain and Herc started choking Oliver with it. Steve Gator Wolf and then Cocoa Samoa attempted to stop the carnage but Herc got rid of them as well. Finally Billy Jack ran in and walloped Herc around, apparently aiding his long time foe. Rip then picked up the chain and pearl-harbored Billy (shades of Flair and Rhodes in 1985). The two heels pounded Billy, who juiced. Mike Miller and Brian Adams finally made the save. Oliver and Haggerty teamed to face Miller and Adams on the May 28 show.

The double elimination in the previous bout made the Haynes-Blackstudd match for the OWF Title. They, however, were disqualified as well as they both tossed the ref around. Haynes was bandaged from the earlier attack and ring announcer Dale Gagnier praised Haynes as a "courageous man".

The next card was May 28 and (SURPRISE! SURPRISE!) Haynes defeated Blackstudd to become the first OWF Heavyweight Champion. Studd hammered Billy around for most of the match and Haynes juiced again. The boss made a superman comeback and trashed Williams, wrapping it up by applying his full nelson. Ref Bill Alphonso stopped the match before Studd gave up. Also on the 28th, they started a feud between newcomer Ricky Santana and Cprl. Kirchner, who is now a heel. Santana got the pin on Kirch, who clobbered him from behind with his flag stick afterwards and wrapped him in a body bag. Although he was hit across the back, Santana wore a neck brace later. He did fall rather hard on the back of his head selling the blow.

With Oliver and Haynes in the main event on June 4, Owen's crowd was very sparse. Another newcomer for Haynes is Johnny Ace, who debuted on May 28 by defeating Cocoa Samoa.

In Owen country, the Terminator (former World Class wrestler and referee Rick Hazzard) debuted on May 28 and pinned Art Barr. Rick is a smaller Jason the Terrible type with a hockey mask. He applied his shininomaki-cobra hold until Art foamed at the mouth. Grap was holding referee Sandy Barr down during all of this.

There were three tag team matches on that card including a hell Vss. heel match in which Avalanche and Mike Golden beat Art Crews and Moondog Moretti as Golden pinned the Moondog. Also, Scott Peterson and Steve Doll went to a fall-apiece draw with Grap and Termie. The latter put the cobra on Peterson until Doll and the Assassin could make the save.

Col. DeBeers wrestled Matt Borne on the same card. Grap interfered in the match and as DeBeers held down his arm, Grap delivered a loaded stomp off the top rope on Matt's hand and kept stomping it until Assassin ran in. Matt then left the area but will return with a wrist brace.

On June 14, it was announced that Terminator had been suspended indefinitely for his actions on the last show. Hmm. I wonder what the real story is here. Grappler defended his belt against the Assassin. DeBeers interfered and taped Assassin's wrists to the top rope and he and the masked man double-teamed him until Peterson made the save. These four met in a "Back Street Survivor's Match" in which both teams will be tied to their respective corners and the first team released can beat on their foes. That bout took place June 11.

Also on that card, Steve Doll pinned Al Madril after a false finish pin by Madril and on the post-match interview, Madril threw fire at Doll who sold it despite it not even being close. It was later said that Al "didn't get him as bad as you might think."

Also on June 11, Jimmy Jack Funk returned to meet Avalanche. May was a busy month for Wrestling in the state. Both the NWA and WWF were in as well as the two local promotions.

WORLD CLASS
by Sean Grande

Since our last issue and the departure of Chris Adams, Texas Heavyweight Champion Terry Taylor is now feuding with Kevin Von Erich. This as a result of a scheduled match between Kevin and Iceman Parsons in Ft. Worth. Taylor came to the ring in street clothes (He had a non-title match with WCWA World Heavyweight Champion Kerry Von Erich later in the show) and asked Kevin if he wouldn't mind switching opponents. That way, Kevin and Terry could have a "warmup" for their Texas Title match later in the week. Kevin agreed and while he was distracted by Iceman, Terry hit him from behind with the title belt, inciting a pull-apart brawl involving every wrestler on the show.

The other big (?) feud going on right now is between WCWA Jr. Heavyweight Champion Eric Embry and Steve Casey. Steve has a couple of non-title pinfalls on the champ that Embry has not taken kindly to. Embry has stated that if Casey pins him again, he will leave the area.

AWA World Heavyweight Champion Jerry Lawler will head down to Texas the weekend of June 17th and make four title defenses. Two against Iceman Parsons and two against Terry Taylor. Jerry has been playing a good deal of his defenses both ways lately (Some as the "face and some as the heel) and you would think that with Kerry holding the area's World title, that he would get a shot with Lawler playing heel, but it appears that Lawler will be a 100% babyface his first trip in as champ.

The Freebird situation remains clouded. The one thing we do know is that Michael Hayes is on one side and Buddy Roberts is on the other. Terry Gordy remains indifferent to everyone except his tag team partner Shaun Simpson. The latest match saw Buddy pin Michael after using brass knuckles. Apparently, they haven't made up their minds as to who Gordy will side with because everytime Terry seems to be leaning one way, he ends up going the other.

Kamala has arrived and will be managed by Skandor Sn-Akbar. It appears that Kamala and Akbar's other man, Black Bart, will feud with everyone, Freebirds, Von Erichs, babyfaces and heels.

Plans are underway to erect a David and Mike Von Erich memorial at Baylor Medical Center. The sculpture will be a lifesize bust of David and Kevin and will have a price tag of about \$20,000 and it will be sculpted by Bill Easley (if that means anything to anyone of you). Fans can have their name placed on the memorial by donating \$25 or more to the Von Erich Infectious Disease Wing at the hospital. The address is Baylor Hospital, 3500 Gaston Ave., Dallas, TX, 75246.

By the way, World Class Wrestling Association merchandise is now available through mail order. Pictures, Buttons and T-Shirts according to the ad. For a catalog, send a SASE to WCCW Mail Order, P.O. Box 224213, Dept. M, Dallas, TX, 75222.

By the way, the Legends of World Class Wrestling program, which airs everyday at 4:00pm EDT everyday, has been a real trip down memory lane. They are currently in the late summer of 1983 as far as the chronological sequence goes. Freebirds Vs Von Erichs, Jimmy Garvin, Bruiser Brody, Chris Adams and more....well it beats daily replays of the AWA's live show in Oakland two years ago....you remember... Jimmy Snuka Vs. Mike York, Blackwell, Nord, etc.

5-27 ST. LOUIS, MO (NWA) - courtesy of Harry White...Sheepherders beat Buggy McGraw and Gary Royal...Sting over Rotunda by DQ...Fantastics over Midnight Express by DQ...Nikita pinned Al Perez...Lex Lugar/Dusty Rhodes and Tully Blanchard/Barry Windham were both counted out...Steve Williams over Ric Flair by DQ...Roadies over the Powers of Pain in a cage...NOTES:Attendance 3400...In the US Tag Title match, false finish had the X-press winning the belts only to have it reversed...Eaton, Fulton and Dusty all bladed...NWA Title match ended after interference from J.J.

5-28 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy Anthony Parillo...Jerry Allen over Mike Sharpe...Rougeaus over the Bs...Valentine downed Steele by DQ...Islanders/Heenan over Koko/Bulldogs when Heenan pins Koko...Jim Niedhart pinned Don Muraco...Dino Bravo pinned Ken Patera...Brutus and OMG were counted out...Randy Savage pinned Ted DiBiase...NOTES:Attendance 6300...Rougeau match complete w. turn...Steele used hammer on Hammer for DQ...Virgil interference backfires in the WWF title bout.

5-30 PONTIAC, MI (WWF) - cortesy Beth Sackett...Lanny Poffo over Barry Horowitz...Brady Boone pinned Steve Lombardi...Muraco pinned Niedhart...Greg over Steele by DQ...Ultimate Warrior pinned Hercules...Rick Rude and Jake Roberts were both counted out...Andre the Giant and Jim Duggan wrestled to a no-contest...OMG and Bam Bam Bigelow were both DQ'd...Strike Force beat the Islanders..

6-4 BLTTLER, NJ (ICW) - courtesy SEAN GRANDE...Cheetah Kid pinned Mike Khalue (B-)...Rocky Johnson defeated the Dungeon Master by DQ...The S & S Express defeated Khalue and Eric Sprazier (B-)...Cheetah/Lady Black Venus defeated Mad Russian/Babyface Kid (C+)...Moondog Spike/Dungeon Master, Tony Atlas/Rocky Johnson were all disqualified (C)...Spike squashed Mike Sundance...Dungeon pinned Tony Stetson (D)...

Cheetah defeated Terry Gunn (C+)...S & S
over the Russian and Adam McDonald (B+)...
Rocky Johnson edged Chris Evans (D+)...Tony
Alas pinned Tony Stetson (D)...George
Skoaland pinned Mike Incognito (D)...NOTES:
Attendance 365, standing room...Security
was awful as the wrestlers had no proection
See Ps. 11-12 for more

6-4 LOS ANGELES, CA (WWF)...cortesy Andy
Dragos...Niedhart over Poffo...Valentine
over Steele by COR...Islanders/Heenan
over Koko/Bulldogs...Honkey Tonk Man pinned
Beefcake...Rougeaus over the Bees...Bravo
pinned Patera...Savage pinned DiBiase...NOTES:
Attendance 10000...Elizabeth looks emaniated
...card was no exception for the "heel-
win trend"...Rougeau's turned again, don't
their opponents read the Forum!

6-10 HOUSTON, TX (NWA)...courtesy Travis
Bratigam...Kevin Sullivan over Tony Torres...
Rick Steiner pinned Randy Hogan...Larry
Zbyszko over Chris Champion...Powers of
Pain over Kendall W, Wilbur and R. Garvin...
Fantastics over X-Pess 2 falls to 1...J. Garvin
over Al Perez by DQ...Sting over Rotunda
by DQ...Nikita, Lex and Doc DDQd Flair,
Windham and Arn...Dusty over Tully...NOTES:
First six-man was barbed wire...Sullivan
inter'd in Jimmy's match...Steiner inter'd
in Sting's match...Grades (starting with
match #13 - D-, D, A, C-, B-, B, ZZ

6-10 MANCHESTER, NH (WWF)...courtesy John
McAdam...Bubba Bossman pinned Poffo...Butcher
LeDuc pinned Sam "hellacious bumps" Houston...
Danny Davis pinned Koko...OMG pinned Bam
Bam clean...Valentine and Steele, DCOR...
JYD pinned Ron Bass...NOTES:Attendance
1100

%%
(VERY) LAST MINUTE STUFF....NWA now giving
away T-shirts with their vitamins. They
also have come out with trading cards. 336 for
\$25. Bye!.....Start spreading the news, I'm
leavin' today, I want to be a part of it....

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

As always, we'll get the trivia questions out of the way first. Last issue we asked "Who once wrestled as Crusher Von Haig?" That was an easy one. Road Warrior Hawk worked under that name before teaming wih Animal. This time we want to know, who wrestled Rick McGraw on the last Shea Stadium card and what was the result? Answer next time. Remember, there are no prizes for correct answers, we just do this for fun (and to take up space).

There has been some confusion in getting hold of me lately. It seems that directory assistance for this area has been telling people that my phone number is not listed. Not true. My father's number is and he spells his name john. So, for easy reference, the phone number here is (309) 289-2662. I'm home most mornings and evenings from 11pm my time till I go to bed, usually around 1:30 or so. Keep this number for reference in case you get an operator who decides not to try the j-o-n spelling.

One other thing on subscriptions before we get on to the rest of this section...a lot of you have written in to remind me that you sent in your money for a renewal because you got either a red or a green label. The main reason you continue to get the red or green label despite renewing is because I'm too cheap to replace it with a black label. Usually right beside of the Volume and Issue number will be the type-written words "ALREADY RENEWED", so if you see that, you're okay. Other times, especially when it gets very close to deadline, we don't process the subscriptions right away. We open all the mail to check for results and letters as the come in, but deadlines take priority over renewals and/or new subscriptions so sometimes the labels remain red or green. If you have any questions about your subscription, just drop us a line or call. Mary can check your sub if I'm not here.

A couple of late notes from World Class. Mark Lowrance wants to make sure you know that it was WCCW that came up with the idea for the Triple Tower of Doom. He spent the first five minutes of a recent show reminding us of that fact. Forget the match taking place in the ring, it's more important that we know that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Okay, all ready, Mark!

Another note from our evening newspaper has Kevin Von Erich doing a job in front of a crowd of about 500. They didn't give the name of the town but the details are that it was a benefit for a little boy with some medical problems. Kevin faced off against Jessica McClure, the little girl who was trapped in a well for three days down that way, and she knocked him out with a kiss. Ain't that sweet. It's nice to see a Von Erich actting like a human, so we'll have to keep his in mind for our class act of the month next issue.

Just got some numbers for the second Clash of Champions show and they aren't bad. Nationwide, it drew a 4.8 which for prime time on a weeknight is great. There are more of these prime time specials planned (I think another two during 1988).

For those of you from Chicago who have been calling and asking if we are planning on making the trip to the Bash this year, I'm afraid not. Money is in short supply and as Sean can tell you, we don't have a car that would make it that far this year. Maybe next. Let me know if they fix the air conditioning though before I make a commitment.

Quick Memphis note...the Bruise Brothers have been phased out. They had started going by their real name, Don and Ron Harris. No word on where they may turn up, but their stay here (other than doing an occasional job) is over.

In case I don't get another chance (this is Sean speaking), I just want to mention what an.....interesting time I've had here in a place I lovingly like to call 'the original middle of nowhere'. A couple of things took getting used to; Country air, calling soda 'pop', strangers saying 'hello' on the street, etc. I also must say that the pizza wasn't bad, let's face it, they've got a long way to go. I never in my wildest dreams imagined the amount of work that goes into this thing every issue until Jon left me most of it to do. They do have McDonalds around here, Pizza Hut, Etc. so it's not a total wasteland. I guess I'm glad I finally came (I mean, how much longer could I possibly put it off). So with that obligatory paragraph out of the way, I return you for the last time this issue to the first man I've ever met with a physical dependency on Pepsi (34 cans in 5 days).

Jon again: Hey, it could have been worse.

Here's a reader request: JOHN MCADAM, 305 BROOKVILLIAGE RD, NASHUA, NH 03062 is looking for regular sources for the following tapes: WOW, Deep South, OWF, Calgary, Windy City, Chicago Championship Wrestling, Global and the 90 minute WMCT show from Memphis. He has a 240 page list of tapes to use as trade bait including a regular supply of both mens promotions in Japan. You can call John at (603) 888-6224.

In the HOMINAHOMINAHOMINA department (you have to say that word like Ralph Kramden to make it sound right), I got my poster of Missy Hyatt in the mail this week. My wife made me put it in the basement. But maybe your wife wouldn't do that so if you like, you can order one by sending \$7.50 (which includes postage and handling) to Hot Stuff Enterprises, Box 236, Lexington, TN 38351. The delivery takes less than two weeks. Ask nicely and Missy will personally autograph it for you (and she even spelled Jon right).

Checking in on print media outside of wrestling, Washington Monthly carried a full feature on pro wrestling that was written by Irvin Muchnick (who also did the Penthouse article on the Von Erichs which has yet to see light of day). It talks about commissions and the like and is very well written. I suggest your library for this issue which is the June issue because if you're anything like this editor, its something a hick would never normally read.

Also, Electronic Media carried a front page story on Titan and Randy Savage in particular. I think it was written by the Titan PR people and just put under EM's byline. Sometimes it amazes me hat responsible journalists will believe anything they are told (like Titan's exaggerated numbers for WMIV) without checking into the story. That's not a dig against them...they probably just have a blind faith in Titan which is no more dumb than having a blind faith in any wrestling organization.

Speaking of misinformation...Windy City wrestling sold that show for the Amphitheatre that we talked about last issue to the arena. It was the arena, not the promotion, who are in a spot of trouble with the Illinois state athletic commission. There is a rather large discrepancy as to the actual number of tickets that were sold. There were 4500 people in hte building (at an average of \$10 per) but the arena only paid tax on a gate of \$6000. The commission is investigating and I'm tolkd that he promotion has been cleared of any wrongdoing. Windy City will not return to the Amphitheatre but will now use the gymnasium at DePaul University as their home arena.

Didn't have the time to get the subscriber count on the cover. It stands at right around 230 as of Wednesday morning not including today's mail. Hope you enjoyed. We sure did. Well. The good Lord willing and the creeks don't rise, we'll see you all in a couple of weeks. Ciao!

WRESTLING FORUM V3 I11
Jon Gallagher - Editor
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I don't know why Jon is so paranoid about this page, I (Sean) always read it to see what kind of fool Jon made of himself that particular issue. Instead of just coming out and telling you that if the ink on your mailing label is black, your subscription is current. If the ink's green, you have one issue left. If it's red, STOP PUTTING IT OFF and renew, this is your last issue. Jon's search for a different gimmick every issue is a perfect example of why wrestling is in the state it's in today, don't you think?